

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. In the Office Action, mailed July 27, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 1-12, 15-22, 24-42, 44-79, 84 and 86-89, and rejected claims 80-83. By this amendment, claims 80-83 have been canceled without prejudice. Following entry of this response, allowed claims 1-12, 15-22, 24-42, 44-79, 84 and 86-89 will be pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-12, 15-22, 24-42, 44-79, 84 and 86-89. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting the allowability of the subject matter contained in these claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 80-83 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,392,570 to Thomas W. Bucht (herein, "Bucht"). Notwithstanding Applicants' firm believe that the rejected claims are patentably distinct from Bucht, Applicants have canceled rejected claims 80-83, without prejudice, to expedite the allowance of the present application.

Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections have been rendered moot and respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(a) rejections of claims 80-83.

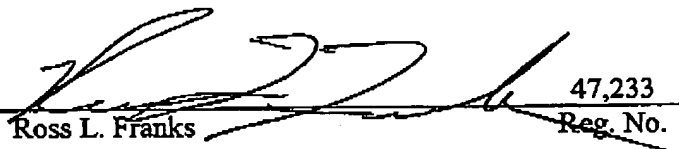
Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition of allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees that may be required relative to this application, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975, Order No. 073169-0269527.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

Date: August 2, 2005


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